

## **New Hampshire Stormwater Coalitions and Stormwater Management October, 2008**

**Contact Barbara McMillan, DES Watershed Outreach Coordinator,  
[barbaramcmillan@des.nh.gov](mailto:barbaramcmillan@des.nh.gov) or 271-7889 for more information.**

---

### **Background**

Stormwater is regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act. Since March 2003, municipalities and developers have been subject to new requirements dealing with stormwater management under Phase II Stormwater Regulations.

### **Requirements Under Phase II for New Hampshire Municipalities**

Under Phase II, the Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit (MS4GP) is required for New Hampshire municipalities located in “urbanized areas” (UAs), as defined by the US Census Bureau, 38 communities in southern and coastal NH. Regulated MS4s must have developed a storm water management program that includes implementation of six minimum control measures.

1. Public education and outreach. Inform citizens about the impact of polluted storm water on water quality through educational materials and other outreach programs.
2. Public participation/involvement. Provide opportunities for citizens to be involved in developing and implementing the storm water management program.
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination. Develop and put into action plans to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to storm sewer systems.
4. Construction site runoff control. Develop and enforce erosion and sediment control programs for construction sites.
5. Post-construction runoff control. Develop and implement programs to address discharge of post-construction storm water runoff from new construction and redevelopment.
6. Pollution prevention/good housekeeping. Develop programs to prevent or reduce runoff from municipal operations.

For more information on the federal stormwater permit, DES created a website <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/stormwater/categories/rules.htm>.

The first five year permit cycle ended in May of 2008 with the new permit is expected to be released from EPA in the fall of 2008. EPA has indicated that the new permit will be a continuation of the first permit with additional requirements including general compliance with water quality standards and meeting TMDL requirements, targeting specific audiences, messages, and impaired waterbodies with education and outreach, adding additional mapping and sampling efforts, and implementing low impact development and green infrastructure, to name a few.

## **Municipal Stormwater Coalitions**

To assist with meeting the Phase II regulations, the regulated municipalities formed regional stormwater coalitions in Nashua, Manchester, and the Seacoast. Coalition members include representatives from municipal department of public works responsible for stormwater and the coalition chairs include the Nashua Regional Planning Commission for the Nashua coalition, Manchester DPW for the Manchester coalition, and Durham DPW with DES staff for the Seacoast coalition. Meetings are held monthly to quarterly. Outreach staff from the DES Watershed Assistance Program works closely with these coalitions attending meetings, coordinating conferences and presenters, providing communications between DES, EPA, and outside agencies, and also providing information about grant resources, grant projects, additional technical support, and possible partnerships.

Coalition work includes:

- Secured grant funding for and promoted the stormwater video *Stormwater Runoff – There is No Away*. (Seacoast)
- Hosted DES training on how to do Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination. (All)
- Coordinated the First New Hampshire Statewide Regional Conference with DES. (All)
- Hosted DES facilitation through outreach and education planning process. (Nashua)
- Solicited and managed grant projects (with DES/NH Estuaries Project funding) for “Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Stormwater Phase II Communities in New Hampshire” guidance document and municipal training. (Seacoast)
- Created tracking sheet for expenses associated with phase II regulation (Nashua)
- Coordinated video/dvd library of stormwater related information for community access channels. (Nashua)
- Designed stormwater curriculum specific to Nashua region towns and their schools. (Nashua)
- Facilitated outside presenters for meetings (All).
- Provide round table discussion on updates on meeting the control measures. (Manchester and Nashua).
- Facilitated discussion with other communities, regional planning commissions, and DES on stormwater utilities. (Manchester)
- Assisted with getting stormwater utility legislation passed. (Manchester)
- Hosted visiting speakers on stormwater products and technical assistance (Nashua and Manchester).
- Hosted EPA for statewide update presentation on new permit. (Seacoast)
- Designed a presentation template for community decision makers to support phase II implementation. (Nashua)
- Designed a presentation template for community decision makers to support new stormwater regulations or ordinances. (Seacoast)
- More!

### **Working with New Hampshire Stormwater Coalitions**

Although EPA administers the new stormwater permit requirements in New Hampshire, DES Watershed Assistance staff recognized that the best management practices that New Hampshire MS4 operators were being required to implement coincided with many DES water quality efforts. Stormwater education efforts, water quality monitoring, eliminating illicit discharges, controlling construction runoff, implementing stormwater ordinances and low impact development, and good housekeeping, are all requirements that fit perfectly with DES water quality goals. The stormwater coalition members are a resource to DES. DES and our partners not only benefit from the coalitions providing an opportunity to receive information and provide assistance to those directly responsible for stormwater on a local level, but we also are able to find out exactly what the municipalities are doing in relation to stormwater and what they need to reduce stormwater pollution.

### **Examples of Stormwater Coalition Needs**

The following needs are a DES interpretation of what has been communicated at stormwater coalition meetings.

Community Support: Stormwater coalition members have indicated that they need support from their town and city boards, councilors, selectman, and managers. Through many of the coalition efforts this may be improving in some of the larger communities, however, they continue to run into many barriers within their communities. Funding is the largest barrier with local regulations, enforcement, and education not far behind.

Financial Support: With additional costs for DPW responsibilities, infrastructure and new maintenance and enforcement requirements have created an additional hardship. Stormwater is not perceived as important when competing for other budget items.

Education Opportunities: To tie in the above two needs, time and money allowing for opportunities to do in-house education and community outreach are a constant struggle.

Legislative Support: This includes support for funding, funding mechanisms, regulations (local and state), and enforcement. In addition they need support for changing existing legislation that may be creating barriers to their work.

State Coordination: The stormwater coordinators express concerns about whether others are aware of what they are doing.

The coalition members are the ones that are actually on the ground managing stormwater and would provide an excellent opportunity to identify additional details, needs and resources.

**New Hampshire Regulated Municipal Separate Storm Sewers (MS4s)**  
**45 Municipalities with 7 \*Waivers Granted**

Amherst	Londonderry
Atkinson	Madbury*
Auburn	Manchester
Bedford	Merrimack
Brentwood*	Milford
Chester*	Milton
Danville	New Castle
Derry	Newington*
Dover	Newton
Durham	North Hampton
East Kingston*	Pelham
Exeter	Plaistow
Goffstown	Portsmouth
Greenland	Rochester
Hampstead	Nashua
Hampton	Rollinsford
Hampton Falls*	Rye
Hollis	Salem
Hooksett	Sandown
Hudson	Seabrook
Kingston	Somersworth
Lee*	Windham
Litchfield	

\*Waivers Granted

**Nontraditional Municipalities**

NHDOT  
UNH-Durham  
YDC Manchester  
Community Technical College, Stratham ?  
Strafford County Complex ?